

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the Specification of the Application as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

Please amend first paragraph on page 9 as follows:

For further background information, some of the routing and signal functions of OSRP are disclosed in commonly owned and co-pending U.S. patent applications serial number 09/259,263, filed March 1, 1999, entitled "ROUTING AND SIGNALING IN A SONET NETWORK" (U.S. Patent No. 7,009,934 – March 7, 2006), which is hereby fully incorporated herein by reference, and serial number 09/493,344, filed January 28, 2000, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CALCULATING PROTECTION ROUTES IN A NETWORK PRIOR TO FAILURE" (U.S. Patent No. 6,859,431 – February 22, 2005), which is hereby fully incorporated herein by reference. The routing protocol in OSRP is responsible for various functions such as discovery of neighbors and link status, reliable distribution of routing topology information, and optimal route determination. The signaling protocol provides various capabilities such as the capability of establishing, tearing down, and modifying connections across a network of nodes (network elements).

Please amend the only full paragraph on page 14 as follows:

In an embodiment of the invention, typically, the LSMR Setup message 305 has a format that is based upon the OSRP protocol and has additional information (e.g., information 350, 355, 360, and [[356]] 365 in Figure 3) that are provided to the slave node 201C by the master node 201D. The LSMR Setup message 305 can be associated with a single SNC (e.g., a SONET STS-1 SNC) or can be associated with multiple SNCs (e.g., 4 SONET STS-1 SNCs). As mentioned above, an STS-1 SNC is an SNC with a size of STS-1 (i.e., line rate of 51.84 Mbps). After the master node 201D has sent the LSMR Setup message [[310]] 305, the master node 201D deletes the previous cross

connections in the switch fabric (switch fabric circuit) 227a, and creates cross connections (cross connection configurations) 226a in the switch fabric 227a, so that the master node 201D can transmit data on the selected alternate line 225. In other words, at the master node (first node) 201D, the cross connection configuration in the switch fabric circuit 227a is changed to obtain a new cross connection 226a configuration, in order to permit the master node 201D to transmit data on the alternate line, after the setup message 305 is transmitted by the master node 201D. As mentioned above, a switch fabric 227 typically includes the switching units in a node, the integrated circuits that are in the switching units, the programming software or firmware that allows switching paths to be controlled, and data buffers and/or shared memory.